

FEEDBACK RE JUBILEE EVENTS - 8 June 2022

Bunting - a couple of miles of bunting was made by Sue Latimer's Ladies early on, thanks to funding from the Council for materials. It was hung around the village, with some in Yenston.

Most of it has now been retrieved and we will be assessing it (torn, dirty etc) before packing away for the next event. It will be stored at the Village Hall.

A big thank you to the ladies who made it.

Thanks also to Ken, Sue (WI), Ashley, Barry, Helen Isbell (WI) and the Ranger for help putting it up. It was taken down today by the Ranger & I.

It created a great impression in the village and resulted in many homeowners putting up their own bunting and flags.

Flag pole - This has been looked after by Tony Holloway, Ash Walk, and we are extremely grateful to him for looking after it.

I have retained the Jubilee flag as a possible item for a fundraising auction in future for a village charity.

PEGS - I was informed that 65 Union flags were flying in the village - quite a record and looking good. Well done PEGS.

PEGS (Andy McMillan & Helen Howlett) will liaise re taking them down.

Cricket - at seemingly the last minute, and much to our delight, two cricket teams were confirmed and a successful match played on the Recreation Ground on Saturday. Many thanks to Will Eaden from the Henstridge CC, and his team / groundsman and the players. We will do a write up for the next Wot's On. The sad part was that the second team's innings could not be completed because of a torrential rainstorm around 3pm. Thank goodness for the Hall Lounge, which was used for lunch / tea / drinks during the rain storm.

The great news is that the 2 teams have applied for permission to organise another game on the Recreation Ground on the August Bank holiday - 29 August.

Before that, St Nicholas school will be playing cricket at the Recreation Ground on 16 & 17 June under the auspices of the Henstridge Cricket Club. This is the last part of the Jubilee celebrations as the matches were delayed because of Half Term. Do come and support them.

Concert in Hall - Liz Holbrook must be hugely congratulated for the amazing concert she organised in the Hall on Friday night. It had everything, including a barn dance at the end of the evening. Donations were collected on arrival and went towards the costs of the event, and a small profit (£125) will be sent to UNHCR for a Ukrainian charity. We have heard so many positive remarks over the weekend about what fun it was that perhaps she can be persuaded to make it an annual event in future.

Dog Show - Anne Smales organised a very successful dog show on the top field on Saturday morning - and the rain held off. Thanks must go to Chris Savage for being on standby from 8am to open the Hall at the last minute if it was necessary to hold the Show

indoors from the rain. But in the end, rain held off. They charged £1/entry for the various categories and collected £64.09 - which offset the cost of insurance for the event. Again, this event received huge positive reviews.

U3A Indoor Street Party - this was the first Jubilee event and was held in the Village Hall. 50 guests dressed up in 1950's gear and were served a delicious lunch, including Coronation Chicken and trifles.

Family Day - was organised by Steve Burrows and very efficiently run, despite the cool weather. There were about 50 children over the course of the afternoon and Steve and his volunteer WAGS were kept busy organising races and demonstrating circus skills, face painting and serving ice creams. The Stocks with wet sponges seemed to be really popular!! Unexpectedly, no-one came forward in fancy dress for the Golden frame competition and there were no adult contenders for It's A Knock Out!

WI Henstridge Fliers Tea & Coronation film - As per usual, delicious cakes and beautifully dressed tables were set up for the teas in the Hall. Meanwhile the Coronation film was being shown on a "loop" in the Lounge. There was a steady stream of people relaxing and chatting during the afternoon.

Church & bell ringing - A Thanksgiving Service was held on Sunday morning at St Nicholas and the Bells rang out for 45 minutes prior to the Service. At one stage it was thought that the bells would not be usable as the ropes and belfry had been soaked in Saturday afternoon's downpour. However, the ropes seemed to be dry enough to proceed and it was lovely to hear them pealing across the village.

Family History display - Linda Farnsworth put together about half a dozen displays from villagers who had met The Queen or other members of the Royal family in social situations. The accounts were very interesting - and several informal additions were made to the display during the weekend by visitors, including a lady who lived here 70 years ago!

Street / house parties - There were many events across the village - from outdoor street parties to indoor house events. One street had 60 guests, complete with marquee and games. Rain did spoil some events that didn't have proper cover - but we're told spirits remained high.

Bird in Hand - Landlord Mark Williams organised a quiz one evening, and the pub installed a large TV set for punters to watch the Jubilee events and the Derby. Cricketers were given special attention after the match.

Queen's Green Canopy - Open Spaces Chair Carolyn Nichols organised the planting of a special Ginko Bilbao tree - which is located next to the huge London Plane on the way up to the top field. Council Chair, Ken Courtenay, did the ceremonial planting and the tree has been registered on the Green Canopy website. Eventually a plaque commemorating the occasion will be set up, together with a protective shield around the tree. By all accounts, 20,000 trees have been planted across Somerset in the name of the Jubilee in the last few months. Good growing!

Loose Ends - thanks to Gail Cullum, Loose Enders were able to attend the tree planting and toast HM The Queen with Prosecco and partake of more delicious cakes.

St Nicholas School - the children have been on holiday over the Jubilee weekend, but a special ceremony was held on the Thursday before break-up to celebrate School Governor Jane Jeanes' 36 years of service at St Nicholas, as well as celebrating HM's Jubilee. Jane was transported from the school to the church by an open carriage, drawn by a beautiful white horse. Once in the church, which was decorated with paintings of the Queen done by the pupils, prizes for term work were given out and the Jubilee song was sung beautifully by the school choir. Congratulations to Head Alison Shearer on a well organised event.

The school will be taking over the Recreation Ground on 16/17 June to play cricket, as the final part of the Jubilee celebrations. Watch out for advertising.

Publicity - thank you to the Clerk and to Helen Isbel for all the laminating of various posters which went up around the village to advertise the Jubilee events. In addition, information was posted on Facebook and NextDoor - with assistance from Andy Scard!

Wot's On very kindly gave us 4-page spreads in the last two editions, so we were able to give more information about what was upcoming.

Please would all event organisers encourage friends and family to post their pictures of the Jubilee events on Facebook and NextDoor - and send any special ones to the editor of Wot's On for the next issue - WotsOnEditor@gmail.com

Conclusion - most people seem to have enjoyed themselves at the village events and watching the wonderful TV shows.

Thank you to everyone who put up with my "suggestions" and (I hope) gentle "nagging" to get the events up and running. You all did a grand job and we hope you have a good rest this coming week.

Elsbeth Graham
6 June 2022